

Applicant : Min Zhu
Appl. No. : 09/751,806
Examiner : Paul H. Kang
Docket No. : 1640.4006

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1.-18. (Cancelled)

19. (currently amended) A system for application sharing in collaborative setting comprising:

a web zone for allowing a plurality of ~~users, each having a respective client computer,~~ client computers to access the system via a global-area network, the web zone having at least one web server, wherein each of the plurality of ~~users'~~ client computers are enabled to access the web zone via a web browser;

a meeting zone for supporting an on-line conference among the plurality of ~~users via their respective~~ client computers, the meeting zone having a meeting manager, a plurality of collaboration servers, and a plurality of application servers, wherein:

the meeting manager is operable to manage the on-line conference in the meeting zone;

each collaboration server is operable to host at least a portion of the on-line conference; and

each application server is operable to support at least one service for the on-line conference;

wherein the meeting zone allows an application program executing on one of the ~~users'~~ client computers in the on-line conference to be shared with one or more of the other ~~users'~~ client computers in the on-line conference via the web browser of each of the one or more of the other ~~users'~~ client computers;

wherein, upon receiving a request to join the on-line conference from a client computer, the meeting zone connects the requesting client computer to an available

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one of the collaboration servers, wherein the available collaboration server queries other collaboration servers to determine which one of the other collaboration servers is hosting the on-line conference, and upon locating the hosting collaboration server, connects to the hosting collaboration server.

20. (previously presented) The system of claim 19 wherein each collaboration server and each application server comprises a respective logical server.

21. (previously presented) The system of claim 20 wherein the meeting zone comprises a zone manager for monitoring each logical server.

22. (previously presented) The system of claim 20 wherein the meeting zone comprises a zone manager for supporting communication among the logical servers.

23. (previously presented) The system of claim 19 wherein the meeting manager is operable to maintain status information for the meeting zone.

24. (previously presented) The system of claim 19 wherein the at least one service for the on-line conference comprises one of document viewing, file sharing, video, voice over IP, telephony, polling, chat, and application sharing.

25. (previously presented) The system of claim 19 wherein the meeting manager is operable to manage all of the collaboration servers and the application servers in the meeting zone.

26. (previously presented) The system of claim 19 wherein the meeting manager is operable to determine whether a predetermined number of authorized conference participants has been exceeded.

27. (previously presented) The system of claim 19 wherein the meeting zone allows an application program executing on one of the client computers in the on-line conference to be viewed on at least a portion of the other client computers in the on-line conference.

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28. (currently amended) A method for application sharing in a collaborative setting supported by a system having a web zone and a meeting zone, wherein the meeting zone has a meeting manager, a plurality of collaboration servers, and a plurality of application servers, the method comprising:

at the web zone allowing a plurality of ~~users, each having respective client computers,~~ client computers to access the system via a global-area network, wherein each of the plurality of ~~users'~~ client computers are enabled to access the web zone via a web browser;

at the meeting zone supporting an on-line conference among the plurality of ~~users via their respective~~ client computers; and

at the meeting zone allowing an application program executing on one of the ~~users'~~ client computers in the on-line conference to be shared with one or more of the other ~~users'~~ client computers in the on-line conference via the web browser of each of the one or more of the other ~~users'~~ client computers;

upon receiving a request from a client computer to join the on-line conference at the meeting zone connecting the requesting client computer to an available one of the collaboration servers;

at the available collaboration server querying other collaboration servers to determine which one of the other collaboration servers is hosting the on-line conference; and

upon locating the hosting collaboration server at the available collaboration server connecting the available collaboration server to the hosting collaboration server.

29. (previously presented) The method of claim 28 wherein supporting the on-line conference comprises hosting the on-line conference in the meeting zone.

30. (previously presented) The method of claim 28 wherein supporting the

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on-line conference comprises managing the on-line conference in the meeting zone.

31. (previously presented) The method of claim 28 wherein supporting the on-line conference comprises supporting at least one service for the on-line conference.

32. (previously presented) The method of claim 28 comprising maintaining status information for the meeting zone.

33. (previously presented) The method of claim 28 comprising determining whether a predetermined number of authorized conference participants has been exceeded.

34. (previously presented) The method of claim 28 comprising allowing an application program executing on one of the client computers in the on-line conference to be shared with at least a portion of the other client computers in then on-line conference.

35. (new) The system of claim 19, wherein upon locating the hosting collaboration server, the available collaboration server copies meeting data from the hosting collaboration server.